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Henry Hastings Hall to W S Hall, 3 February 1859

Sandhurst

Feb^y 3rd 1859

My dear brother

I only arrived here this morning. I think it was fortunate I took that chance as that was a good lift from Amherst I "humped" it to Carisbrook, spent Tuesday with Ronayne & not meeting with any conveyance going my way I walked through to [?Lockwood] I found my swag very inconvenient, had it not been for that I could have come right through to Sandhurst in the day without much fatigue. Kirk is in Carisbrook having opened a Hay & Corn & [?fruit] store opposite the bridge. Old Price the bullock-driver was a regular brick, and made me sit down to a jolly good dinner when we arrived. Yesterday was very hot & I had nineteen miles with only one drink of water. Having only arrived this morning I have not much to say but will write you again in a few days I received this morning your letters (2) and J Turner's (1). I find Sandhurst wonderfully altered. Cox's (carter) eldest boy is dead and his brother in law has cheated him out of the money Cox lent him sometime back. I am rejoiced I did not postpone my journey, the weather is getting hotter every day. Poor Tom Mitchison ruptured a blood vessel, went to Sydney for his health and died there his unlawful love the pretty Kate Chester with whom he bolted at the Swan was knocked down by an omnibus in Melbourne some time ago and killed. Kirk took me to see his land, while standing in the cottage belonging to it I noticed some quartz on the chimney piece he told me he broke them from an [?untrie] reef between [?C] and Maryboro', I only saw two or three specks of gold, but he said with the aid of a microscope much fine gold could be seen. Now without noticing that I called your attention to it you might at some future time draw him into conversation about it and propose to prospect the reef with him, of course I mean if you happen to be in the neighbourhood he talks of going carting at present so will probably neglect it for a while, but I think when you are doing nothing, it would be worth looking into K was very kind asked me to stop a day which I declined and Mrs K wished to be particularly remembered to you and Jim.

Feb 7th I had written this much but thought it would be better to ascertain what I could get for your watch and send it but have been delayed ever since and see no prospect of disposing of it here if not I shall take it to Melbourne and try there. Samuels offered 50/- for it but I asked him to allow me to see whether I could not get more elsewhere and he declined it altogether no one else will make me an offer I am too late for a P O order today but will forward one tomorrow for Two pounds and remit you further from Melbourne if I get more. I shall leave this on Wednesday (9th) so you must write me [?next] P O Melbourne. The weather has been insufferably hot ever since I arrived over 100° in the shade every day and the mosquitoes are abominable I am going to Stewarts and I [?think] Fanny goes with me thus far I will do all I can for you there and every where. Do not think I have been neglecting you the first two days I was too [?stiff] to go out at all Brachers are so full of Boarders I have to sleep on the parlour floor. I shall surely write you before I leave Melbourne. Adieu for the present my dear brother, remembrances to old Jim

Affectly Yours

H H Hall